

*WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.*

**COURSE:** WSBM 522 Live Your Calling: Meaning in Life and Work

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Richard (Rick) J. Goossen (rick@elonnetwork.org)

**DATE:** Saturdays | October 19 – November 9, 2024 | 9:00am-12:00pm, 3040 (coffee/tea and pastries available from 8:30am)

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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What are your gifts? What is your passion? Where do you find meaning? What is your calling?

A clear understanding of our calling is core for the Christian, no matter one's stage of life. The one starting a career or in the midst of education can lay a foundation for future plans. The one looking to reset can find direction mid-career. Those in their retirement stage can reboot their focus in life in order to finish well.

Discovering and developing meaning in our lives allows us to live lives of Biblical, practical, and relevant discipleship. These three emphases help us face the opposing foci of mainstream culture and ensure that we appropriately connect meaning and identity in our work environment.

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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Make sense of their life and work within the context of a Biblical framework
- Discover how their life experiences contribute to their unique and special purpose
- Assert Biblical truth in daily living, in light of opposing culture and secular pursuits
- Practically apply their calling in clear, tangible ways, regardless of work environment
- Develop a healthy relationship between their identity and their workplace
- Create their own "Personal Calling Action Plan" with clear action steps to discern and apply their calling in life and work

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### **RECOMMENDED READING**

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Goossen, Richard and R. Paul Stevens. *Entrepreneurial Leadership: Finding Your Calling, Making a Difference*. (Downers Grove, IL: InverVarsity, 2013.)

Various Blog Posts from ELONetwork (see final page)

## COURSE PROGRAM

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Date	Topic	Associated Readings	Assignments
October 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the Course</li><li>• The Search for Meaning</li><li>• Meaning in Life &amp; Work</li></ul>	En. Leadership pp. 43-60 Blogs: 1, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 23	I
October 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finding Your Calling</li><li>• Vocational Pyramid</li></ul>	En. Leadership pp. 109-126 Blogs: 7, 8, 9, 10, 20	II & III
November 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Principles of Calling</li><li>• The Practice of Calling</li></ul>	En. Leadership pp. 127-162 Blogs: 2	IV & V
November 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is My Point?</li><li>• Course Summary</li></ul>	En. Leadership pp. 163-180 Blogs: 1, 11, 16	VI
November 23			Synthesis

## STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

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*The value of this course comes when students engage in careful self-reflection. This course will be a "success" to the extent that participants apply the knowledge to their own lives.*

### 1. Attendance (10%)

Attend and participate in at each class.

**Due:** Weekly

### 2. Weekly Assignments (60%)

Complete a self-reflection after each class discussing the content from the class. Each report must be 250-500 words.

**Due:** Weekly

### 3. Final Synthesis (30%)

Reflect on all assignments to date and complete a Personal Calling Action Plan, which blends all content together with a focus on the student's individual calling. The document must be 500-1000 words. Guiding questions will be provided.

**Due:** November 23, 2024

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

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Dr. Rick Goossen serves as Chairman of the ELO Group, which has grown since 2005 to provide resources for meaning-driven entrepreneurial leaders. He has been a member at Willingdon Church since 1993, and has served with WSBM, the Welcome Centre, ushering, and home groups.

Dr. Goossen has previously served on the boards of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches, Columbia Bible College, and the Mennonite Housing Society.

## **BLOG POSTS FROM ELONNETWORK.ORG**

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*These blogs are referenced in the recommended readings for further study. You can use the search feature at <https://www.entrepreneurialleaders.com/blog> for more blogs covering various aspects of the course material.*

- [Blog 1 - Bill Pollard: Former CEO, Service Master: Living Your Calling](#)
- [Blog 2 - Bobby Gruenewald's Lessons Learned from the Launch of the YouVersion Bible App](#)
- [Blog 3 - Calling: Past, Present & Future?](#)
- [Blog 4 - Calling: Play To Your Strengths](#)
- [Blog 5 - Calling: Ready, Willing, But Not Able?](#)
- [Blog 6 - Calling: The Old and the New](#)
- [Blog 7 - Calling: We Are Not In Control](#)
- [Blog 8 - Charles Spurgeon: Four Steps To Finding Your Calling](#)
- [Blog 9 - Christian Entrepreneurs & Confusion Over Calling](#)
- [Blog 10 - Fifty Reasons Why You Are Called](#)
- Blog 11 – Jordan B. Peterson's 12 Rules for Life: The Quest for Meaning Feb 18, 2019
- [Blog 12 - Jordan B. Peterson's 12 Rules for Life: Why Every Christian Should Read This Book](#)
- [Blog 13 - Lord Stephen K. Green on Leading & Calling in the Marketplace](#)
- [Blog 14 - Mark Burnett, TV Producer: Living Your Calling](#)
- [Blog 15 - Mart Green, Hobby Lobby Stores: Living Your Calling](#)
- [Blog 16 - Not Called, But Gifted?](#)
- [Blog 17 - Peter Irvine: Business as Mission](#)
- [Blog 18 - Philip Ng, CEO, Far East Organization: A Billionaire Family's Christian Enterprise \(Part I\)](#)
- [Blog 19 - Richard Magnussen: Called to the Furniture Business!](#)
- [Blog 20 - The Call of Christian Marketplace Leaders & The Old Bakery Tearoom](#)
- [Blog 21 - Thank God for Closed Doors](#)
- [Blog 22 - The Call of Christian Entrepreneurs from Oxford](#)
- [Blog 23 - The Call of William Milne 195 Years Later: From Aberdeenshire to Malacca](#)
- [Blog 24 - What is Your Blind Spot?](#)
- [Blog 25 - You Are Called: Being On Purpose in Life & Work](#)
- [Blog 26 - Your Calling: The World's Need?](#)